

Wycombe courage is all in vain

Watford 5, Wycombe 1: by DENIS COMPTON

WYCOMBE WANDERERS were paid the compliment of playing before nearly 24,000 people, easily Watford's best crowd since Manchester United visited them in the F.A. Cup in 1952. Wycombe responded to this with all the courage and enthusiasm at their disposal. These two qualities were alone responsible for Watford being held for the major portion of the first half.

Nevertheless once the professionals got their noses in front just before half-time the result from then on was never in doubt.

Watford started as if they were going to take no chances and in eight minutes they took the lead through fine scheming on the part of Hartle who made it very easy for Uphill to score.

Wycombe fought back with great tenacity and after 19 minutes were on level terms. McNeice, Watford's centre half, fouled Bates just outside the penalty area and the resultant free kick taken by solicitor Atkins was driven home with great power.

Some great defensive work and some remarkable escapes held Watford at bay until the 42nd minute. During that period Beck, Wycombe's right back, was quite magnificent in coping with all situations.

But I'm afraid his colleague Moring at left back was allowing Benning far too much room on the right wing. Therefore nearly all the danger was coming from this fast, direct player.

It was his fierce accurate cross which enabled Uphill to head past Syrett after 42 minutes. Then just

before the interval Holton scored No. 3 when put through by Hartle.

Wycombe tired badly in the second half and it was only their indomitable spirit and a superb display by Beck which kept the score down to respectable standards.

Watford's fourth goal was scored by centre-half McNeice whose shot from at least 30 yards out was allowed to enter the net with Syrett making no attempt to save.

The ball appeared to dip at the very last moment. Wycombe were given the opportunity to reduce the arrears when awarded a penalty for a foul on Bates, but the latter's effort went straight into Linton's midriff.

With two minutes to go Holton scored Watford's fifth from a penalty.

Wycombe's chief fault was that they lacked a forward who could hold the ball and scheme openings and also they were far too easily dispossessed.

Holton, Hartle and Benning were the pick of the Watford forwards in a game which was full of interest and excitement.

A tonic for sick Uphill

By TIM BROWN

WATFORD 5, WYCOMBE W. 1

DENNIS UPHILL, hero of Watford's crushing victory over smart amateurs and near-neighbours Wycombe Wanderers with a brace of the finest goals seen at Vicarage Road this season, has been ill with stomach trouble since Wednesday.

At half-time the club doctor dosed him with medicine and a pale Dennis went out to complete the match he had already made safe.

Inside-left Barry Hartle, the slim lad who eats a steak a day to build up his strength, slide-ruled the ball to Uphill after eight minutes and the centre-forward flashed it into the net.

Nine minutes later the Wanderers were level. Dennis Atkins, a solicitor employed by a Watford director, scored with a free kick just a yard outside the area.

Watford looked shaken as eager Wycombe took heart, but four minutes from the interval Uphill gave them what proved to be a pay-off punch with a magnificent header.

Cliff Holton dribbled round the 'keeper for Watford's third, and then centre-half Vince McNeice scored his first ever goal with a floating fluke shot from 30 yds.

Holton rung down the curtain by demonstrating how a penalty should be taken.